policies and that the Government will have to come up with policies which encourage competition and allow free play of market dynamics. It has also recommended that the Finance Ministry should also come up with incentives as has already been done for encouraging the telecom sector. The Government will also have to focus on the long term strategic aspect like the development of skilled manpower. If these are done, it will be possible for the Indian telecom industry to emerge as global player and for the Indian domestic market to grow at an explosive rate.

(c) In pursuance of the National Telecom Policy 1994, the Government of India has already invited Indian Registered private companies to participate in Telecom Services Sector in a competitive environment. The Finance Ministry has also announced Telecom Sector as Infrastructure and consequential fiscal incentives.

*[Translation]*

**Problem of Power in Delhi**

406. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received some schemes/proposals/memoranda from Delhi Government during last three years till date for solving the problem of power in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details therefore;

(c) the amount of assistance provided to the Government of Delhi for this purpose during each of the last three years;

(d) the manner in which Delhi Government has utilised the amount of assistance and the achievements made in this regard; and

(e) the details of the schemes/proposals/memoranda under consideration of the Government alongwith the time by which they are likely to be finalised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) . (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]*

**Issuance of Life Time Free Travel Passes**

407. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Board has taken a decision to allow life-time free and endless AC first class travel to retired members of the Board and their families;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons and justification thereof;

(d) whether the Federation of Railway Officers Association has passed a resolution requesting the Railway Board to rethink on the Platinum Pass privilege and speedy withdrawal of the same; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Retired Board Members are issued Complimentary card passes which entitle them to travel alongwith eligible members of their family or a companion subject to the condition that they will not avail more than 2 berths in I-AC or 2 seats in Executive Class. In case of Rajdhani Express trains they can avail either 2 berths in I-AC/AC Sleeper or four berths in 3 AC.

(c) These facilities are granted in token of appreciation of the contribution made by the Retired Board Members to Indian Railways and are in lieu of the three post retirement complimentary cheque passes to which they were eligible annually.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The scheme has been evolved after due consideration of all the issues. It is not considered desirable to revoke it.

*[Translation]*

**Separate Corporation for Speed Post Service**

408. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :